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Philippines and United Republic of Tanzania: draft resolution

Inclusion of persons with disabilities in realizing the Millennium Development Goals

The General Assembly,

Recalling the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons,[1] the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities[2] and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[3] which recognize persons with disabilities as both development agents and beneficiaries in all aspects of development,

Recalling also its previous resolutions on internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, which recognized the collective responsibility of Governments to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity, as well as a duty to the most vulnerable people, in order to achieve greater justice and equality for all,

Gravely concerned that persons with disabilities are subject to multiple or aggravated forms of discrimination, and are therefore largely segregated, marginalized, excluded and invisible in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Millennium Development Goals,

Noting that the entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which is both a human rights treaty and a development tool, provides an opportunity to invigorate this overlooked issue of development, and that Millennium Development Goal policies and implementation should therefore be strengthened, including by the normative standards and framework of the Convention, contributing to the realization of a "society for all" in the twenty-first century,

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[1] A/37/351/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII, recommendation 1 (IV).

[2] Resolution 48/96, annex.

[3] Resolution 61/106, annex I.

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Noting also that persons with disabilities make up an estimated 10 per cent of the world's population, of whom 80 per cent live in developing countries, and that disability could be associated with 20 per cent of the global population living in poverty,

Concerned that the lack of data and information on disability and the situation of persons with disabilities at the national level contributes to the invisibility of persons with disabilities in official statistics, presenting an obstacle to achieving development planning and implementation that is inclusive of persons with disabilities,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on realizing the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities through the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;[4]

2. *Welcomes* the initiatives by various sectors, including the private sector and civil society, to promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the realization of the Millennium Development Goals, and urges Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, regional and international financial institutions and civil society, in particular organizations representing persons with disabilities, as appropriate, to include explicitly persons with disabilities in the targets, benchmarks, national plans and tools designed to contribute to the full realization of the Millennium Development Goals;

3. *Calls upon* Governments to include persons with disabilities in the upcoming review of the Millennium Development Goals, since that review provides an entry point for the assessment of how persons with disabilities fare in comparison with the population at large in relation to achieving the Goals, in particular poverty eradication, employment, universal primary education, reduction of child mortality, improvement of maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS and gender equality;

4. *Encourages* Governments actively to promote accessibility, including through the provision of reasonable accommodation, and inclusion of persons with disabilities, to enable them to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life, including decent work, and to participate as agents and beneficiaries of development, in particular in all efforts aimed at achieving internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, by ensuring:

(a) Access to and inclusion in poverty and hunger eradication programmes and efforts to achieve full employment and decent work for all;

(b) Access to and inclusion in universal primary education, in particular for children with disabilities, keeping in mind the likelihood that girls with disabilities will face multiple barriers;

(c) Access of women and girls with disabilities to all services, in particular education, health and employment services;

(d) Improved protection for children with disabilities, in particular by providing accessible health-care services and inclusive education;

[4] A/64/180.

(e) Free or affordable health care for women with disabilities, including in the area of sexual and reproductive health and public health programmes;

(f) Enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health for persons with disabilities, without discrimination on the basis of disability;

(g) Sharing of scientific and technical knowledge with a focus on accessibility and inclusion;

(h) Inclusion of persons with disabilities in the preparations for and response to humanitarian disasters and emergencies;

5. *Emphasizes* the importance of the participation of persons with disabilities at all levels of policymaking and development, which is critical to informing policymakers on the situation of persons with disabilities, the barriers they may face and ways to overcome obstacles to the full and equal enjoyment of their rights, to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals for all, including persons with disabilities, and to their socio-economic advancement;

6. *Encourages* international cooperation in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, including through global partnerships for development, which are crucial for the realization of the Goals for all, in particular for persons with disabilities;

7. *Encourages* Governments to develop and accelerate exchange of information, experience and practices, as well as policies and programmes regarding the situation of persons with disabilities and disability issues, in particular as they relate to inclusion and accessibility;

8. *Calls upon* Governments to build a knowledge base of data and information about the situation of persons with disabilities that could be used to make development policy planning and implementation disability-sensitive, and in this regard requests the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, through its Statistics Division, to develop, before the 2010 review by the General Assembly of the Millennium Development Goals, basic guidelines for the collection and analysis of disability-sensitive statistics that are most critical for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and to assist countries in the implementation of those guidelines in future data collection efforts;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include information on the implementation of the present resolution in the report requested by the General Assembly at its sixty-third session for submission to the Assembly at its sixty-fifth session.